

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



FOR THE YEAR
1968

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS

JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1968 - 1969

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford, Berks.

P. R. HEDLEY, ESQ., 7, Blackstone Road, Wallingford, Berks.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. S. M. MULLIN, 28, Fyfield Close, Wantage, Berks.

C. F. W. HARRISON, ESQ., 20, Priory Road, Wantage, Berks.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

J. H. GALLO, ESQ., 31, The Croft, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

CAPT. C. W. MAYNE, Broomsticks, West Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

D. G. HOLMES, ESQ., 137, Park Road, Didcot, Berks.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

W. J. MARTIN, ESQ., 3 Parkside Bungalows, East Challow, Wantage, Berks. (*Vice-Chairman*).

BRIGADIER W. J. COLYER, Drayton Lodge, Hermitage, Newbury, Berks.

J. C. DOLAN, ESQ., Burnside, Manor Crescent, Compton, Newbury, Berks.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

T. P. LAWRENCE, ESQ., Glebe House, Fawley, Wantage, Berks.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford Berks. (*Chairman*).

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford, Berks.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

F. R. HOWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Secretary

MRS. E. L. FUDGE

Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford, Berks. Telephone 2561

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Senior Public Health Inspector

E. N. SINCLAIR, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. G. SAFFIN, M.A.P.H.I.

Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford. Telephone 2561

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Senior Public Health Inspector

L. OLIVER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector

R. I. W. OWEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (left 31.1.69)

Council Offices, Portway, Wantage Telephone 3456/7

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. SPROSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector

N. C. ALLEY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.H.M., (left 30.6.68)

A. J. COOKSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 12.8.68)

Churchill House, Broadway, Didcot Telephone 2301

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Senior Public Health Inspector

E. H. ROSSER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

S. J. A. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage, Didcot Telephone 3211

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
STONE HALL,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1968 including the information required by Ministry of Health Circular 1/69.

The estimated population of the Combined Districts rose from 56,300 in 1967 to 58,080 in 1968. This difference of 1,780 included 619 excess of births over deaths. Thus movement into the District must have been 1,161 persons: 106 into Wallingford Borough; 33 into Wantage Urban District; 537 into Wallingford Rural District; and 395 into Wantage Rural District.

There were 57 more births than in 1967, compared with a fall of 10,000 nationally. The increase was spread over all four Districts: Wallingford Borough had 15 more; Wantage Urban District 6 more; Wallingford Rural District 23 more; and Wantage Rural District 13 more. It is pleasing to note that the rise in the number of births was associated with a decrease in the total number of illegitimate births from 66 in 1967 to 62 in 1968. This fall affected all Districts except Wantage Rural where the figure rose to 25. I will forbear to comment upon this!

The stillbirth rate was very low, only a little over half the national figure, at 7.2 per 1,000 total births. There were, in fact, only 9 stillbirths in the whole District, one being illegitimate. Together with the satisfactory infant mortality rate (13.7 per 1,000 live births compared with a national figure of 18.0) and perinatal mortality rates (which rates combine the stillbirths with deaths under 1 week of age) which were all below the national figure of 25 per 1,000 total births) these figures indicate a satisfactory state of the maternity services provided for the District. Of the total of 17 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 12 were under 1 week old (9 male and 3 female), and 5 were over 4 weeks old (2 male and 3 female).

The list of causes of death has been considerably changed this year. It conforms to the Eighth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death

as adopted by the 19th World Health Assembly in 1966. As the full list is considerably longer than the old short list of 36 causes of death used previously by the Registrar General, only those headings are shown within which deaths occurred in the District. No direct comparison is therefore possible with last year's figures, but comparisons will again be possible next year.

There were, in fact, 72 more deaths in 1968 than in 1967. Such comparison as is possible indicates that the main increases were of deaths from heart disease and strokes; from malignancies, including cancer of the lung and breast; and from pneumonia in the over 65's. In spite of the increase, the corrected death rates for all Districts except Wantage Rural were below the national figure of 11.9 per 1,000 population.

Infectious diseases notified during 1968 showed the usual reduction for a non epidemic year for measles. An isolated case of mild paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in October. The patient was a middle aged woman who worked in a shop. No source was found for the infection, which was shown to be due to Type 1 virus of a wild strain (i.e. not from vaccine). The patient had not been vaccinated and this should be a timely warning that, to the unprotected, the consequences of infection by the polio virus, which is still possible at any time, are just as serious as they ever were. The patient, I am pleased to say, has made a good, though not complete, recovery.

During the year measles vaccination became available to all children between the ages of 1 year and 15 years. The results at the time of writing are very encouraging. Although the past winter would normally have been one of high incidence, national figures were much more akin to those of a non-epidemic year. In 1968 a total of 1,381 children were vaccinated in the Combined District, 233 in Wallingford Borough, 510 in Wallingford Rural District, 231 in Wantage Urban District and 407 in Wantage Rural District. Most of these were between the ages of 1 year and 5 years.

For the first time for many years in the District, Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 had to be invoked, to admit an old lady to hospital without her consent, and that on Christmas Day. She was nearly 90 years of age and had been a constant source of worry for many years, living alone in very poor conditions. She had always absolutely refused to leave her home and had been able to attend to her basic needs with the help of friends. She eventually became so frail, however, that she was unable even to get to her feet and was eating practically nothing. A bed was made available for her in Battle Hospital, an order signed by a magistrate, and she was taken in on Christmas Day. She appeared to be getting along very well and enjoying being waited upon when she died suddenly after about a month.

The problem of refuse disposal has not yet been resolved. Various expedients have had to be introduced, including the purchase of a pulverisor by two of the districts. This machine has not been very satisfactory, however, and has broken down on many occasions. The final solution must surely lie in providing incineration facilities, with a large number of districts sharing the cost of suitable plant located at the most central and conveniently accessible point.

A regular series of meetings has been started at which the public health inspectors of the four districts meet to discuss matters of common interest and these have been found most useful. Closer co-operation has been achieved and schemes for an integrated sampling programme and the most effective use of the newly acquired noise meter were worked out. Unfortunately these, and many other aspects of public health work, have been severely limited by the loss of two public health inspectors whom it has been impossible so far to replace. Shortage of these officers has resulted in inflated salary offers which are not justified and which can create anomalies and difficulties with other members of local authority staffs. It is to be hoped Local Government reorganisation, when it comes, will abolish this particular absurdity.

The extended sampling programme which was possible in Wallingford Borough produced some rather disturbing results. It is obvious that the staffs of some of the food shops are not fully aware of the need for constant high standards of hygiene. This is particularly important in relation to cooked meats, especially if they are sold on the same premises as butchers' meat. Cross infection from the latter is only too easy and the consequences can be serious. While public health inspectors may do what they can to minimise these and similar dangers, they cannot always be on hand and the public must themselves be aware of them. It would seem reasonable for the Ministry to interest itself more than it now does in some educational programme to this end.

Soft ice cream caused some concern early in the year, as is mentioned elsewhere in this report. Routine sampling of foods is an important aspect of the public health inspectors' work. Even in well run factories things go wrong and they may be disclosed by poor results to routine tests. When these are communicated to the manufacturer he can take the necessary steps to restore satisfactory standards before any harm is done.

The introduction of fluoridation of the water supplies has still not been achieved in the County. It seems to my simple mind anomalous, to say the least, that a small percentage (about 1 in 6 according to a recent survey) of opponents can deny a very real benefit to the rest of the community. I find it hard to believe that even the most vociferous amongst them can still think that the

addition of sufficient fluoride to make good natural deficiencies can be in any way dangerous to health or that it does not vastly improve dental health. If they do, then they can only achieve this state of mind by consciously ignoring the massive weight of evidence to the contrary. Some, of course, are prepared to misinterpret deliberately what they read, in order to get their way, and do so with complete lack of moral scruple even as they disclaim that it is "morally" wrong to add fluoride to the water supplies. Such hypocrisy staggers the imagination. I believe that fluoridation is bound to come soon — it is impossible for any fundamentally sane community to deny itself such a simple benison indefinitely. The anti-fluoridationists will not then be remembered with any trace of gratitude.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

May, 1969.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1967	1968	
Wallingford Borough	760	5,870	6,000 - 2	130
Wantage Urban	2,797	7,660	7,860 - 2 (v)	200
Wallingford Rural	21,790	22,680	23,520 - 2	840
Wantage Rural	74,181	20,090	20,700 - 2	610
Combined Districts	99,528	56,300	58,080	1,780

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1968			Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total			1967	1968
				1967	1968		
Wallingford Borough	65	62	127	19.1	21.2	17.8	19.7
Wantage Urban	74	68	142	17.8	18.1	17.4	18.3
Wallingford Rural	309	249	558	23.6	23.7	24.1	24.2
Wantage Rural	202	214	416	20.1	20.1	19.3	19.3
Combined Districts	650	593	1243	21.1	21.4		
England and Wales*			822,000			17.2	16.9

*Estimated figures for 1968.

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of still births		Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Wallingford Borough	2	2	18	15.5
Wantage Urban	1	0	7	0
Wallingford Rural	7	5	13	8.9
Wantage Rural	6	2	15	4.8
Combined Districts	16	9	13.3	7.2
England and Wales*	12,500	12,000	14.8	14.0

*Estimated figures for 1968.

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum									
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Wallingford Borough	3	5	2	4	3	5	5	4	5	3
Wantage Urban	6	6	6	8	5	3	7	6	8	4
Wallingford Rural	8	17	15	19	28	23	25	18	37	30
Wantage Rural	14	15	11	17	17	15	17	20	16	25
Combined Districts	31	43	34	48	53	46	54	48	66	62
Rate per 1,000 total live births (Combined Districts)	36	49	39	47	53	40	46	40	56	49
Rate per 1,000 total live births (England and Wales)	51	54	59	66	69	72	77	79	84	85

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	1968			1967		1967	
	Male	Female	Total	1967	1968	1967	1968
Wallingford Borough	37	66	103	16.7	17.2	10.0	9.1
Wantage Urban	29	46	75	9.0	9.5	8.2	8.3
Wallingford Rural	127	128	255	9.0	10.8	8.1	9.6
Wantage Rural	106	85	191	7.8	9.2	9.8	12.0
Combined Districts	299	325	624	9.4	10.7		
England and Wales*	577,000					11.2	11.9

*Estimated figures for 1968.

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Wallingford Borough	2	1	18	7.9
Wantage Urban	1	1	7	7.0
Wallingford Rural	8	11	15	19.7
Wantage Rural	6	4	15	9.4
Combined Districts	17	17	14.3	13.7
England and Wales	15,267	15,000	18.3	18.0

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION

TRIPLE ANTIGEN 1968

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	71	33	4	—	1	—	109
Booster	—	53	75	17	17	4	166
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	299	203	20	—	6	3	531
Booster	—	205	206	22	33	3	469
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	98	23	—	2	7	6	136
Booster	—	65	62	14	1	1	143
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	246	91	17	25	—	—	379
Booster	—	198	81	25	18	—	322
Combined Districts	714	871	465	105	83	17	2,255

DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION 1968

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	—	1	3	15	4	—	23
Booster	—	—	—	—	80	16	96
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	—	6	—	3	22	2	33
Booster	—	1	2	—	288	9	300
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	—	2	1	—	10	2	15
Booster	—	—	—	—	78	9	87
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	—	—	8	6	—	2	16
Booster	—	—	—	14	260	26	300
Combined Districts	—	10	14	38	742	66	870

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1968

District	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	—	72	7	1	—	80
Re-Vacc	—	—	—	33	10	43
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	—	326	34	1	—	361
Re-Vacc	—	—	6	42	45	93
Wantage Urban						
Primary	—	81	27	2	—	110
Re-Vacc	—	—	3	19	13	35
Wantage Rural						
Primary	3	284	28	9	—	324
Re-Vacc	—	—	11	49	19	79
Combined Districts	3	763	116	156	87	1,125

ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

District	Primary Course (3 doses)	Re-inforcing Doses
Wallingford Borough		
All ages	125	175
Wallingford Rural		
All ages	452	571
Wantage Urban		
All ages	188	250
Wantage Rural		
All ages	342	574
Combined Districts	1,107	1,570

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at first skin test			Number Vaccinated		
	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968
Wallingford Grammar	13	2	3	49	50	50
Blackstone County Sec.	12	4	5	86	89	74
King Alfred's Grammar	3	4	1	44	43	49
Icknield County Sec.	19	10	3	68	57	74
Didcot Girls' Grammar	9	4	2	121	79	36
St. Birinus County Sec.	10	3	2	85	87	78
St. Frideswide's Cnty. Sec.	15	12	3	69	119	83
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	3	—	—	12	23	25
Segsbury	17	7	2	38	49	60
The Downs	2	16	1	52	57	56
Total	103	62	22	624	653	585

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Wfd. Boro.	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1968	Total 1967
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	3	18	22	48
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	1	1	8	6
Malaria B.T.	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	1	11	5	32	49	324
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	1	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	1	8
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—	4	8	12	13
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	—	1	2	2	5	3
Whooping Cough	2	—	4	4	10	7
Total	12	13	19	65	109	411

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough		Wantage U.D.		Wallingford R.D.		Wantage R.D.		Combined Districts 1968	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total	Total
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1	1	—	3	5	1	6	12
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	—	2	1	7	1	12	2	14	27
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	—	1	—	9	—	5	5	17
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	3
Leukaemia	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	5
Other malignant neoplasms	5	4	5	2	17	6	14	12	26	65
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diabetes mellitus	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	4
Hypertensive disease	—	1	—	1	3	1	1	1	2	8
Ischaemic heart disease	5	10	8	12	34	38	19	11	30	137
Other forms of heart disease	5	4	—	1	9	3	3	5	8	30
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	2	3	1	2	5	2	2	4	18
Cerebrovascular disease	7	15	5	8	10	25	14	17	31	101
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	5
Influenza	—	1	—	—	3	1	2	—	2	7
Pneumonia	4	19	—	2	12	19	11	11	22	78
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	—	2	2	9	4	3	1	4	24

Asthma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Peptic ulcer	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	2	—	2	5
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	1	3	4	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
Congenital anomalies	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	2	6
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	5	2	1	3	8
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	1	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	—	1	1	5	6	—	—	—	1	1	2	9
Other diseases of blood	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Mental disorders	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	3	5	8
All other accidents	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	3	5	2	—	2	8
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	2
All other external causes	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	3
Total	37	66	103	29	46	75	127	128	225	106	85	191	624

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and where held</i>
Aston Tirrold	Village Hall; First Monday, 3.0—4.0 p.m. (Advisory only)
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.30 p.m. (Advisory only)
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Cholsey	The Laurence Hall; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesday, 2.0—4.15 p.m.
East Challow	British Legion Premises; 2nd Monday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Thursday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Grove	Grove Hall; Second and Fourth Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Hermitage	Village Hall; Second Monday, 2.0—4.30 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	Conservative Hall; First and Third Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and where held</i>
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; First Wednesday, 2.0 p.m.—3.30 p.m. Second, Third and Fourth Thursday, 7.0—8.30 p.m.
Didcot	Didcot Hospital; Every Thursday 7.0—9.0 p.m. First and Third Mondays, 7.0—9.0 p.m. for new patients.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINICS

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Address and where held</i>
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; Second or Fourth Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	St. Mary's Hospital; Fourth Thursday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies with the exception of twenty-two houses which are supplied from a private borehole.

Forty-seven samples of chlorinated water as distributed were taken for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

A number of industrial premises in the Borough obtain their water from private boreholes. These premises are mainly situated in the Hithercroft Road area. Thirty-nine samples were taken from boreholes of which four were found to be unsatisfactory. This is a much lower percentage of unsatisfactory samples than last year (10% unsatisfactory compared with 39% last year) and positive steps are being taken to introduce mains water supply to the area.

The fluoride content of the water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained throughout the year by a team of three loaders and a driver with a 24 cubic yard compression type refuse vehicle. An arrangement has been entered into with the Wallingford Rural District Council to hire their spare vehicle, if available, for the times when the normal one is off the road for repair or maintenance. For the times when neither vehicle is available the Council have had made, to their own design, a cover for the trailer to convert it into a 6-7 cubic yard container. This has to be towed behind the tractor which makes journeys to tip rather lengthy and in consequence two days are required for one day's collection.

The Council also arranges the collection of extra or bulky refuse from domestic premises free of charge. From commercial premises refuse is collected at the charge of 1s. 0d. per bin or equivalent.

All refuse collected by the main vehicle is taken to Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal, where the refuse is treated by a Seerdrum pulverisation plant before tipping.

A bay is provided at the Station Road Depot where the public may dump their bulky refuse free of charge. This is disposed of either by taking it to the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip or by disposal by private contractors, or in the case of scrap metal, sold to scrap merchants.

STREET CLEANSING

The Council employ three workmen on hand sweeping of the streets, these concentrate mainly on the centre of the town.

A decision has been taken as to the type of suction sweeper best suited to the needs of the Borough and this will be purchased in 1969.

PEST CONTROL

Summary of rodent work carried out:—

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Premises other than agricultural	171	54
Agricultural premises	10	3
	<hr/> 181	<hr/> 57

OTHER PESTS

1. One outbreak of cockroaches (German type) was discovered in a food shop in the Borough. This was successfully treated and no insects have been observed for two months.

2. One outbreak of bed bugs was reported from a Council house. These were disposed of eventually by extensive fumigation of the house.

MILK SAMPLES

Thirty-one samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples passed the appropriate tests.

No raw milks were taken and examined particularly for brucella abortus.

CREAM SAMPLES

Following doubts expressed by certain medical bodies about the bacterial standards of cream. Fifteen samples were taken with the following results: —

11 showed no bacterial growth.

4 showed light contamination.

Unfortunately at present there are no legal standards for cream, and therefore, no formal action could have been taken had there been any bad samples. The Council has suggested to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the Government should bring in legal bacteriological limits for cream.

ICE CREAM

Eighteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standard of these premises was found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

In addition to sampling from registered premises samples were also obtained from catering establishments, using their equipment, to establish the efficiency of sterilisation of scoops and similar equipment. In most cases it was found to be satisfactory and where it was not, advice was given and further samples proved satisfactory.

Several companies operate vans selling ice cream in the Borough and in general the standard of hygiene was found to be satisfactory.

Twenty-five samples of ice cream and one sample of fruit lollie were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results: —

ICE CREAM

14 placed in Provisional Grade I

8 placed in Provisional Grade II

3 placed in Provisional Grade III

Those in Grades II and III were resampled and returned as Grade I.

The sample of fruit lollie was satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Business	No. of premises	Compliance with Reg. 16	No. where Reg. 19 applies	Compliance with Reg 19
Butcher	9	9	9	9
Grocer	10	10	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	2	2	2	2
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	6	6	—	—
Cafes	10	10	10	10
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	11	11	—	—
Public Houses	13	13	13	13
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1

The following visits were made to food premises during the year:—

Type of Business	No. of Visits	Type of Business	No. of Visits
Butchers	42	Hotels	4
Grocers	42	Bakers	15
Greengrocers	24	Confectioners	41
Fried Fish Shops	10	Public Houses	28
Fishmongers	11	Off Licences	5
Cafes	50		

Visits were also made to schools, hospitals and old peoples' homes kitchens, making a total of 289 visits made in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Twelve informal notices were served on owners or occupiers and all were complied with.

MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY REGULATIONS

All food stalls in the market are inspected regularly and contraventions pointed out to the stall holders. The most common fault is failure to set up washing facilities although they are available.

WALLINGFORD FAIR

The following food stalls were present at the annual fair:—

- 8 Hot Dogs
- 6 Candy Floss
- 5 Toffee apples and sweets
- 2 Fish and Chip

All were inspected on the first evening and the following defects noted: —

- 4 stalls had no hot water
- 2 stalls had no first aid kit.
- 2 stalls did not have the appropriate name and address displayed.
- 5 stalls did not have either soap, nailbrush or towel.

All stallholders were notified of the defect or defects to their stall and on a subsequent inspection all were satisfactory.

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Sale of ice cream	... ..	18
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food		9

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the local authority with their refuse. Condemned frozen food is disposed of in the same way as tinned food.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

12 houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.
44 houses were erected by private enterprises.

Four houses were made fit and Closing Orders were lifted.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plants have continued to function satisfactorily.

In addition to the Council pool there are two school swimming pools in the Borough.

Fourteen samples of water were taken from the pools. Two were unsatisfactory; the remaining twelve samples were satisfactory. Both unsatisfactory samples were from the paddling pool at the Council's Riverside Park. After a change in the purification routine further samples were satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In order that a check may be kept on the level of atmospheric pollution in the Borough, particularly in relation to any effects caused to these levels by Didcot Power Station, an apparatus to measure the amount of SO₂ and suspended solids in the air has been set up in Blackstone School.

NOISE LEVELS

Using the new noise level meter purchased by the Wallingford and Wantage Joint Public Health Committee, noise levels are being taken regularly at a number of points in the Borough, in order that the effects which any future development may have on the noise levels in any particular area, may be known.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered: —

Tinned Meat	97 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	— In nearly all cases this had been confined to large tins of ham, tongue and pressed meats which have been insufficiently processed and the tins have consequently blown.
Frozen Food (other than unpacked meat)	1907 pkts.	— The foods surrendered were unsound due to breakdowns in the refrigeration plant.
Fish	91 lbs.	— This was a consignment of hake found to be decomposed.
Meat (other than from slaughter house and including chilled and frozen meat)	367 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	— Usually condemned because of decomposition due to storage for too long a period.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The following complaints were received concerning food: —

1. Mouldy Cheese — no formal action taken as the cheese was stored for some time sealed in its cellophane wrapper before the mould was noticed.
2. Evil Smelling Raspberries — the complainant stated that a tin of raspberries smelt evil. On investigation there was no apparent smell or other defect and they tasted delicious!
3. Mouldy apple tart — This was a tart where the cooked apple was sealed in a pastry case whilst still warm then put on display. The baker who was new to the trade, was warned of the dangers of this practice and no further trouble has been experienced.
4. Unpleasant Fish and Chips — This complaint on investigation was found to be unfounded.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

The following alleged nuisances have been reported during the year: —

1. Complaint of noise nuisance from a shed used in conjunction with a factory as a workplace.

The factory have had new premises built and the trouble no longer exists.

2. Complaint of smell following building works to adjacent property.

This complaint affected two houses both of which alleged that following work by builders on land adjoining their property they had been affected by a smell of sewers. On investigation it was found that the builders had removed the kerb to the existing road, which had resulted in surface water gaining entrance to the sub-floor space of the houses. The kerb was replaced and the water removed and no more trouble experienced.

3. Complaint of 'sewer' smell from House.

This alleged smell occurs at intervals but disappears at the approach of the Public Health Inspector.

MEAT INSPECTION

100 % inspection is carried out at the one slaughterhouse in the Borough.

During the year a supply of paper towels has been provided so that wiping cloths can be dispensed with.

The general condition of the slaughterhouse is satisfactory.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	178	47	72	1,355	875
Number inspected	178	47	72	1,355	875
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	12	Nil	32	70
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	9	25.5	Nil	2.6	8.6

There was no incidence of either tuberculosis or cysticercosis during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTION

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the local authority	58	32	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	8	—	—
TOTAL	62	41	—	—

There are no outworkers' premises in the Borough.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All the premises in the Borough to which the Act applies are registered and following inspections the owners or occupiers have been notified of contraventions.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Total number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	32
Retail shops	84
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the public	11
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	130

Eighty-seven visits were carried out to premises with particular reference to the Act. Fifteen informal notices were served mainly in respect of first aid kits which had become depleted.

Two accidents were reported during the year, both from the same shop and both affecting the same person. These accidents were of a similar nature being caused by boxes in a store being dropped by an employee and striking another. The main trouble was that the storage space was inadequate for the amount of stock handled. The business has now moved to larger premises so this danger is now reduced.

April 1969.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Some extensions have been made to the Thames Valley Water Board mains at Belmont and Stockham to supply the needs of new residential development. At present most of the water supply continues to be drawn from the Manor Road bore-holes where it is dosed with chlorine 0.25 parts per million. Analysis shows the natural fluoride content to be 0.1 part per million. The supply is augmented by the trunk main from Childrey Warren as needed.

The supply of water to the district has proved satisfactory in quantity. Reports by the Public Analyst state that the mains water was without odour and of satisfactory taste, it is of good chemical purity, of moderate hardness and satisfactory for the public supply. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

There are 2,380 dwellings situated in the district supplied direct by public water mains, only three houses have external standpipes as a means of supply. The population involved is 7,749 and five respectively. Twelve bacteriological samples of water have been obtained during the year from Thames Valley Water Board mains supplies. Samples of treated and raw water were obtained; all were satisfactory. Forty samples have been taken from the eight private supplies in use; 28 samples were found to be consistently satisfactory. One is kept permanently chlorinated. Of the remaining two which were unsatisfactory one is contaminated only occasionally; one is only used for non-domestic purposes.

In every case where contamination occurs the householders, or persons in charge, are warned of the danger and strongly advised to boil all water used for domestic and drinking purposes.

Four chemical samples were taken, one from mains supply reported on as stated; three were taken from the private supplies and reported upon as without odour or taste and satisfactory from the chemical point of view.

FOOD HYGIENE

There are 94 food premises within the district which receive inspection as often as necessary. Those with premises which do not comply with regulations have been requested to carry out remedial works in the near future.

Seven certificates needed for export of food have been issued during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Trade	Number	Comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Comply with Reg. 19
Bakers shop, bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Butchers	5	4	5	5
Cafes, Canteens, Restaurants	6	6	5	5
Chemists	2	2	2	2
Wet Fish	2	2	1	1
Fried Fish	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	4	3	0	0
Grocers and General Stores	18	17	18	18
Hotels & Licensed Premises	16	14	16	16
Public Halls and Clubs	9	4	9	5
Schools' Meals Kitchens	10	9	10	10
Sweet Shops	9	8	0	0
Other Premises	8	7	6	6
Totals	94	81	77	73

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

The following foods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption. All of this food was voluntarily surrendered and buried in the tip under supervision.

Meat and Offal	80 pounds
Fish	6 pounds
Frozen Food	93 pounds
Jam	10 pounds
Pie Filling	47 pounds
Other Foods	11 pounds
Total	<u>247 pounds</u>

There are no poultry processing premises in the district. Routine inspection of poultry in shops is carried out, no seizures were made during the year.

MILK SUPPLIES

Thirty samples of milk were obtained during the year: 5 failed the methylene blue test, the rest were satisfactory. The 5 unsatisfactory samples were all taken from the Convent dairy. Checks were made where the milk was produced at the Convent farm and it was noted that the washings from the churns returned from the Convent had a high plate count. It transpired that a wrong method of sterilisation was being used at the Convent. This has been put right and since then we have taken 8 satisfactory samples.

The standard of retailed milk in the town has been better in quality this year. It is handled and stored satisfactorily and overstocking has ceased.

Three samples were examined for brucella abortus: all were satisfactory.

FOOD SAMPLING

Seventy-nine food samples were obtained during the year for examination by the Public Health Laboratory, other than ice cream, milk and water. 12 were unsatisfactory.

ICE CREAM AND SIMILAR PRODUCTS

Twenty-one premises are registered and sell pre-packed ice-cream: five cafes sell ice cream from bulk. Samples were obtained from these premises for bacteriological examination with the following results: —

- 19 Ice cream samples placed in provisional grade 1.
- 7 Ice cream samples placed in provisional grade 2.
- 2 Ice Lollies were found satisfactory.

Sampling of soft ice cream from vans in the local Tonibell Ltd. depot, has continued jointly with the Rural District during the year, the aim being to obtain grade 1 samples from each salesman. This aim has been achieved with the exception of two vans which have been taken off the road for mechanical reasons. In addition talks have been given to the salesmen on personal hygiene and the standard of hygiene in the depot has been raised. It is pleasing to state that no complaints have been received from other authorities regarding poor samples from the vans, or the state of the vehicles.

Fifty-six samples have been obtained from “Tonibell” vans during the year with the following results: —

Grade 1	21
Grade 2	14
Grade 3	17
Grade 4	4

Vans giving the lower grade results were resampled until Grade 1 was achieved and on every visit inspections of vehicles were made with satisfactory results in most cases

Most problems during this year have arisen from the “pasteurised” mix used at the depot. Strict control over this product is difficult as it is produced elsewhere, however later results give us some hope that these difficulties have been overcome at the factory.

Samples of Pasteurised mix taken as follows:

Grade 1	6
Grade 2	15
Grade 3	7

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The need to increase the capacity of the Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works and to construct a new and larger trunk sewer to the works has become increasingly urgent. The disposal works is working greatly in excess of its designed capacity and the resultant problems are numerous and troublesome.

Sewers have been laid on the Belmont and Stockham estates and most are in use.

The work to extend the Sewage Works is now in hand and the extension will cover all demand visualized. The capacity of the works will be trebled and will suffice for the Urban District area and the proposed Grove extension.

The new trunk sewer is 20% complete and the construction of the new filter beds started.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse has been maintained. The collection vehicle was requiring an increasing amount of maintenance and spares, and a new vehicle was purchased during the year.

The vehicle, a “Pakamatic” of 60 cubic yard capacity, is proving very useful as the “S” hill tip is now almost full and all refuse is taken to Abingdon for disposal. The old tip is used for disposal of household refuse, brought to the tip on Wednesdays and Saturdays by local householders.

SWIMMING BATHS AND PADDLING POOLS

The following samples were taken during the year: —

Paddling Pool, Manor Road	2 satisfactory
	2 unsatisfactory
U.D.C. Bath, Mill Street	4 satisfactory
Ickniel School Bath	1 satisfactory
King Alfred's School Bath	1 satisfactory
Garston Lane School Bath	1 satisfactory
	2 unsatisfactory
St. Mary's School Bath	1 satisfactory

The baths and pools were also checked for chlorine level regularly. No difficulty was experienced in maintaining a reasonable standard at the paddling pool and with a chlorination and filtration plant installed at the Urban District Council bath, standards were satisfactory. The direction that the use of Ortho-tolidine cease for testing purposes has involved us in the purchase of a new DPD testing kit and this is used consistently.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the "Caravan Sites Control and Development Act, 1960" as a site for 28 dwellings. It is inspected from time to time to see if the conditions on the site are satisfactory from the point of view of hygiene, sanitation and fire precautions.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

It has not been necessary to carry out disinfection of any premises this year, except that the annual fumigation of the flour mill was carried out in May, using hydrogen cyanide.

A large amount of flea infestations were found which appeared to have spread from house to house. Complete spraying of the whole of the houses was necessary before the infestations were brought under control.

Several cases of cluster flies were found during the early part of the year and the use of insecticide smoke generators provided satisfactory results

RODENT CONTROL

Test baiting of sewer manholes was carried out during the year, an exemption has been in force for two years and a further exemption has been obtained. No evidence of manhole infestation came to light, during the year.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	2578	18
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	64	12
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	39	8
(ii) Mice	12	0
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	316	12
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	103	8
(ii) Mice	41	6

HOUSING

	1966	1967	1968
Number of permanent houses erected	31	82	164
Number of permanent houses erected by Local Authority	—	10	113
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	31	72	51
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—	—
Number of families on housing list	350	222	221
Number of houses represented as unfit	—	4	21
Number of closing orders made	—	2	—
Number of demolition orders made	—	2	—
Number of houses in area represented as unfit and included in clearance areas	30	—	17

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications made for standard grants	—	9	9
Number of applications made for discretionary grants	—	—	2

All of the 15 houses remaining on the slum clearance list, at the end of 1967, were inspected and are now awaiting formal action.

The Stockham Housing Estate being almost completed this year has provided a reservoir for housing purposes and thus relieved the situation in this area.

Early in the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government requested an outline of future plans within the Urban District and the following is a brief survey of the situation as assessed at that time.

Number of houses at present unfit	45
Number of houses estimated as becoming unfit annually	9
In 0— 5 years	21
5—10 „	27
10—15 „	24
15—20 „	75

Houses believed to be ripe for improvement

by a 12 points grant 95

by a 5 points grant 81

There are no 'common lodging houses' in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Routine inspections of factories have been carried out during the year; no alarming contraventions have been found.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	32	37	12	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	33	39	12	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

- (a) Insufficient sanitary conveniences, 1 (remedied).
- (b) Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences, 11 (all remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK — Nil.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Notification of accidents received — Nil.

Number of visits to premises by Inspectors — 152.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	34	21
Retail Shops	3	76	65
Wholesale Shops			
Warehouses	—	1	—
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	3	11	8
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
Totals	7	122	94

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	16
5	Overcrowding	4
6	Temperature	24
7	Ventilation	4
8	Lighting	25
9	Sanitary Conveniences	39
10	Washing facilities	24
11	Supply of drinking water	6
12	Clothing Accommodation	16
13	Sitting facilities	4
16	Floors, passages and stairs	29
17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	13
24	First Aid	28
50	Posting 'Abstract'	31
50	Other matters	14
Total		277

PERSONS EMPLOYED ON REGISTERED PREMISES IN 1968

Work place	Males	Females	Total
Offices	58	90	148
Retail Shops	94	296	390
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	7	1	8
Catering Establishments	14	38	52
Fuel Depots	1	—	1
Totals	174	425	599

Two exemptions for periods were made by the Council during the year: —

1. From providing an intervening ventilated space to a Water Closet.
2. From providing sufficient space in an office for 2 years.

1968 SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Atmospheric Pollution and Noise	...	...	...	...	13
Building, Structures	...	...	...	...	21
Diseases of Animals	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	50
Drainage, Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	168
Factories, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	37
Food Inspection, complaints	...	...	...	...	60
Food Hygiene, Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	189
Housing	...	...	...	...	396
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	68
Mobile Food Shops, Vehicles, Stalls	...	...	...	...	43
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	113
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	32
Petroleum and Explosives	...	...	...	...	114
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	4
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	54
Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	78
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	404
Sampling	...	...	...	...	328
Shops, Offices, Hairdressers	157
Swimming and Paddling Pools	53
Water	48

Total number of visits	2,446
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Total number of complaints received	150
Total number of complaints substantiated	119
Number of defects or nuisances remedied	...	...	...	107
Number of Formal Notices served	...	...	...	24
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	100

March 1969.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

During 1968, a satisfactory supply was provided from boreholes at Aston Tirrold, Cholsey, Upton and West Hagbourne, and water also entered the area from pumping stations at Blewbury, Cleeve and Woods Farm.

Samples as listed below were collected during the year: —

Aston Tirrold Works	53	Aston Tirrold Reservoir	2
Cholsey Works	44	Hagbourne Hill Reservoir	3
Upton Works	53	Moulsford Reservoir	8
West Hagbourne Works	53	Tap Samples	3

In all therefore, 219 samples were examined.

Of the 113 raw waters, 34 showed some contamination due to the presence of coliform organisms, while of the 90 final waters, three only fell a little below the highest standard of purity.

Slight contamination at Moulsford Reservoir was dealt with by chlorination.

Chemical analysis of water from the sources at present in use are given below, with results quoted in parts per million where appropriate.

Appearance	Aston Tirrold Clear and bright	Cholsey Slightly aerated be- coming clear and bright	Upton Clear and bright	West Hagbourne Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C	420	645	640	590
pH	7.25	7.2	7.25	7.05
Free carbon dioxide	14	35	28	38
Ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	0.000	0.008	0.020	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.008	0.020	0.012	0.017
Nitrite (N)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value 4 hrs. @ 27°C	0.10	0.12	0.16	0.12
Iron	Nil	0.02	less than 0.01	less than 0.01
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	190	240	275	275
Non Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	15	120	0	60
Total Hardness CaCO ₃	205	360	275	335
Chloride (Cl)	1 2.5	25.6	20.3	15.5
Nitrate (N)	4.3	1.6	2.3	4.0
Sulphate (SO ₄)	15	109	58	52
Calcium (Ca)	77	141	107	132.5
Magnesium (Mg)	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.5
Sodium (Na)	9.0	15.5	54.5	14.5
Potassium (K)	1.8	6.3	3.1	3.7
Silica (SiO ₂)	22	20	28	24
Phosphate (PO ₄)	0.04	0.12	0.02	0.015 less
Natural Fluoride (F)	0.15	less than 0.1	0.15	than 0.1

The natural fluoride content of these waters is low, as is that of the additional water brought into the area.

There appear to be 24 houses which have no mains supply of water, but there is no record of how many have stand-pipe supplies only, or of the total number of houses supplied. The population served, based on the Registrar Generals estimate as at 30th June, 1968 is 23,500.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No drainage or sewage disposal schemes have been carried out during the past year, but it is hoped to commence work in the near future on a scheme for draining properties in the Manor Farm area of Cholsey.

All the Council's Sewage Disposal Works are producing satisfactory effluents, and the Thames Conservancy, who served a notice last year on the Council in respect of the Didcot Works, have now agreed that the effluent is no longer offensive or injurious.

The design work on the new Didcot Works is proceeding, and it is hoped to go to tender by Christmas, 1969.

REFUSE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

This is operating satisfactorily.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1968

	Non- Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in district	8080	28
No. of inspections	834	481
No. of infestations (rats)	385	99
(mice)	32	6

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. The particulars are as follows: —

Location	Owner
5 Hagbourne Road Didcot	Messrs. H. Andrews and Sons 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot

MEAT INSPECTION 1968

	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	—	6	8	6	56	30	—
February	—	2	9	5	49	13	7
March	—	6	6	7	43	12	2
April	—	9	4	7	39	7	21
May	—	6	5	2	50	1	31
June	—	4	4	4	32	—	21
July	—	4	11	4	46	—	43
August	—	3	5	5	38	1	32
September	—	3	5	5	40	—	26
October	—	8	6	12	41	15	11
November	—	3	7	7	48	—	21
December	—	4	6	7	57	12	7
Total	—	58	76	71	539	91	222

Tuberculosis

Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Percentage	—	—	—	—	0.74	—	—

Cysticercosis

<i>Bovis</i>							
Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diseases other than C. Bovis and Tuberculosis

Whole Carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcasses/ Organs	—	23	2	66	11	—	—

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

Meat	78 lb.
Offal	438 lb.
Total	516 lb.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk retailed in the district is designated. There are 26 registered distributors. Twelve samples of milk were taken from schools in the area during the year, all of which satisfied the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Three samples of milk were examined for *Brucella Abortus* — all samples were negative.

ICE CREAM

There are 2 premises in the district registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. There are also 70 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. No samples of ice cream were taken during 1968.

GENERAL

The undermentioned complaints relating to food offered for sale were dealt with during the year: —

1. Foreign body in bread — no further action in view of analyst's report.
2. Cigarette end in bread — prosecution — Baker fined £20 plus £3 3s. 0d. costs.
3. Pork Skinless Sausages — letter of warning to retailer.
4. Foreign matter in tin of Irish Stew — letter of warning to manufacturer.
5. Beetle in tin of peas — letter to manufacturer.
6. Coffee yoghurt — letter to retailers concerning stock rotation.
7. Threadworm in fish fingers — letter to manufacturer.
8. Confectionery — mouldy apple pie — letter to manufacturer.
9. Milk carton — detached sliver of wax — letter to manufacturers.
10. Beetle in apple tart — no further action — complainant declined to give evidence of purchase.
11. Beetle in tin of apricots — letter to importers.
12. Beetle in bread — no further action — complainant declined to give evidence of purchase.
13. Metal staple in lardy cake — prosecution — Baker fined £10 plus costs.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT
FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

<i>Canned Food...</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
5527 cans fruit and vegetables	6749
148 cans meat	889
27 cans fish	20
43 cans milk	50
 <i>Fresh Foods</i>	
Dried fruit	206
Dried vegetables	500
Fresh vegetables	112
Fresh fish	210
Fresh poultry	87
 <i>Frozen Foods</i>	
1567 packets vegetables	902
1468 packets fish	713
599 packets meat	266
129 packets chicken	62
35 packets milk products	18
17 cans fruit juice	7
	<hr/>
	10,791
	<hr/>

STATISTICS — FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Grocers	38
Confectioners	16
Hotels	6
Public Houses	25
Food Factories and Warehouses	10
Butchers	16
Greengrocers	7
Bakeries	3
Fish Shops (wet and fried)	5
Cafes	6

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream	2
Storage and sale of ice cream	70
Fish frying	3
Sausage making	10
Bakehouses	3
Manufacture of meat pies	1

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises	2
Number of visits	19
Total number of birds processed	107,218
Type of birds processed — capons, fowls, turkeys	
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit	2.4 %
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit	3859 lbs.

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1968

	Informal	Statutory
Drainage	1	—
Dustbins	1	—
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	9	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There was one complaint during 1968, concerning the flue gases from the boiler chimney of a bank. As a result of representations the chimney has now been extended, and there have been no further complaints.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1968 one person was buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

The undermentioned swimming baths are situated within the district:

Edmonds Park Swimming Pool, Didcot (Public)
Swimming Bath, Didcot Girls' Grammar School (Private)
Swimming Bath, Cranford House School, Moulsoford (Private)
Swimming Bath, Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford
(Public)

No samples of swimming bath water were taken during 1968.

HOUSING

During 1968, three houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The following building programme was completed by the Council during 1968:

DIDCOT — Eleven bungalows (2 b/r) at Barnes Road/Cockroft Road, Didcot.

The undermentioned development was commenced during 1968:

CHOLSEY — Thirty-two (2 b/r) maisonettes.

The undermentioned development should be commenced in 1969:

DIDCOT — Twelve (2 b/r) bungalows, Mereland Road.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing Register at the end of 1968 was 640.

CARAVANS

The undermentioned licensed caravan sites are operated in the Council's district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD

120 permanent sites. 40 holiday sites — Satisfactory.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT

28 permanent sites — Satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

32 permanent sites — now operating under new management.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT

100 permanent sites — Satisfactory.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY

12 permanent sites — Satisfactory.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

6 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites — Satisfactory.

DIDCOT POWER STATION

120 temporary sites — Satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The report to the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the year was as follows:—

TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	—	33	10
Retail Shops	4	90	13
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	3	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	7	—
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—
Totals	4	135	23

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES — 103

TABLE C — ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

<i>Class of workplace</i>	<i>No. of persons employed</i>
Offices	185
Retail shops	440
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	44
Catering Establishments open to the public	50
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Total	722
Total Males	238
Total Females	484

There were no Exemptions or Prosecutions during the year. The number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act was 2.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	5	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	54	5	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found: — Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c): —

Making, etc. of wearing apparel: 2.

Brass and brass articles: 18.

March 1969.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOOD ADMINISTRATION

MILK

Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations issued by the County Council and in force during the year were as follows:

Pasteuriser	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)		...	9

Of these dealers, 4 were selling pasteurised milk in bottles or waxed cartons, 3 sterilised milk, 6 ultra-heat treated milk in 'tetra-paks'. As far as is known no untreated milk was produced for sale or sold in the district during the year although one producer's licence was still valid. Consequently no samples were examined for *Brucella abortus*.

Sampling was again restricted to school milk and one sample from each of the following suppliers was taken during the year:

Oxford Co-operative Society Ltd.

H. A. Job Ltd., Didcot.

County Dairies (Oxford) Ltd.

Each sample was reported as having satisfied both methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

Milk production is now a very highly organised and technological business and sample results over the past few years indicate that heat treated milk is one of the safest foods available to the public. It is for this reason that less emphasis has been placed on local sampling to enable more time to be devoted to the supervision of the manufacture of milk products and ice cream as shown below.

One complaint concerning a dirty milk bottle was received during the year and a letter was sent to the dairy company reminding them of their responsibility and requesting increased vigilance on the part of the 'spotters'.

MILK PRODUCTS

1968 proved to be a year of considerable change at the milk products dairy in Grove. Work continued steadily on the construction of an entirely new yoghurt plant but delays in the delivery of equipment prevented this plant from becoming operational before

the end of the year. This was unfortunate as the long awaited re-organisation of the cream production plant depended on the complete removal of yoghurt processing to the new building. Nevertheless the pasteurised cream continued to be produced under conditions which were as hygienic as one could expect during a period of such great change.

Ten samples of pasteurised double and single cream were taken during the year, eight of which were satisfactory. The remaining two were reported to contain small numbers of coliform organisms indicating post-pasteurisation contamination, probably due to the amount of handling in churns required by the current processing system. It is hoped that these shortcomings will be entirely overcome as soon as the new 'pipe-line' system is introduced in the spring of 1969.

Fifteen samples of yoghurt produced at Grove were also taken and results were all satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were in use during the year: —

School meals kitchens (where main meals are produced)	10
Staff canteens (U.K.A.E.A., S.R.C., A.R.C. Canteens and U.K.A.E.A. hostels)	8
Cafes and tea rooms	6
Public houses (some serving main meals but most dispensing snacks only)	52
Grocers (including village general stores)	50
Butchers	7
Greengrocers	3
Confectioners	6
Off licences	2
Bakehouses	4
	<hr/> 148 <hr/>

Total number of inspections of food premises — 113.

Another butcher's shop was closed during the year and replaced by entirely new premises. A new greengrocery business was opened at Blewbury and improvements were carried out or at least commenced at two shops and four public houses.

A grocery business at Peasemore ceased and one public house at West Challow was closed temporarily on the retirement of the licensee and major alterations and improvements are planned before re-opening.

Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations relating to wash hand basins was complied with by all except three food premises where the amount of business conducted was very

small. Regulation 19, relating to sinks was complied with in every case where applicable.

MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

Two ice cream vendors and three mobile greengrocers were known to be operating from premises within the district but in addition a considerable number of traders from other districts were discovered from time to time.

The mobile butchery business operating from Hampstead Norris ceased during the year.

Enforcement of the regulations has always proved somewhat difficult due to the problems associated with follow up inspections. The policy adopted has been to refer any infringements to the Public Health Inspector for the trader's own district.

The two market stalls selling fresh fruit in season were again found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The total number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice cream was 58. No samples of pre-packed ice cream were taken due to the consistently good results obtained in earlier years. Sampling was concentrated entirely on the soft ice cream produced by mobile vendors operating from the Tonibell depot in the Wantage Urban District. This work was carried out jointly with the Public Health Inspector for that district.

Results were as follows:

Ice cream —	Grade I	...	...	21
	Grade II	...	...	14
	Grade III	...	...	17
	Grade IV	...	...	4
Pasteurised mix (before freezing)				
	Grade I	...	...	6
	Grade II	...	...	15
	Grade III	...	...	7
	Grade IV	...	...	Nil

In order to ensure that samples of the pasteurised mix were taken under aseptic conditions, sealed polythene bags, as supplied by the manufacturer, were taken from the cold store at Wantage direct to the Public Health Laboratory at Oxford where the samples were extracted by the Laboratory staff. The bags were then resealed and returned immediately to the Tonibell depot. In spite of these precautions the results were not up to the standard desired and representations were made to the firm regarding the bacteriological quality of the product. The ice cream vans themselves

were again found to be in excellent condition on leaving the depot each day and the sterilisation of freezers and other equipment was most satisfactory.

WATERCRESS

Once again the only watercress known to be marketed from beds within the district came from Letcombe Bassett where the routine hypochlorite dipping of the product was continued. No samples were taken during the year as earlier results had already proved the value of the system.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were voluntarily surrendered during the year: —

			Cwts.	lbs.
Fresh meat at retail shops	...	...	2	48
Frozen meat products	...	...		60
Canned meats	...	...		24
Frozen fish	...	...		45
Frozen fruit and vegetables	...	...		60
Other foods (frozen)	...	...		16
		Total	4	29

In every case except the canned meats the reason for surrender was refrigerator breakdown. In many cases the food was not decomposed at the time of inspection but it was felt advisable to issue the necessary certificates in respect of frozen foods due to the dangers associated with re-freezing after having thawed out.

The following complaints from consumers were received: —

Foreign body in butter; sulphur staining in canned meat; penicillin mould on a loaf of bread; beetles in porage oats; and pieces of cow hide in canned stewing steak. In the last two cases, where some lack of care was indicated on the part of the manufacturer and/or the wholesaler, warning letters were sent to the companies concerned and assurances of greater care in future were received.

FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Three cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year and specimens collected from contacts for laboratory examination. Investigations into an outbreak of Sonne dysentery in Grove midway through the year absorbed a considerable amount of time and a total of 41 specimens were collected for examination. Whenever positive results were obtained advice was given on the

need for a very high standard of personal hygiene in the home. The outbreak subsided after the school holidays started.

The co-operation of general practitioners and the staff of the local primary school was much appreciated.

POULTRY PROCESSING

No poultry processing plants were in operation in the district during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Minister of Labour for the year ending 31st December 1968:

Class of Premises	No. registered during year	No. registered at end of year	General Inspections	Persons employed
Offices	3	12	10	244
Retail shops	8	48	42	142
Catering establishments open to the public	Nil	7	4	31
Fuel storage depots	Nil	2	2	5
Totals	11	69	58	422

Male employees — 195 Female employees — 227.

Total number of visits to registered premises of all kinds — 150.

The exceptional increase in office employees is due entirely to the fact that the responsibility for enforcement in two major laboratories, the Atlas Computer Laboratory and the Agricultural Research Council at Letcombe Regis has been passed to this Council by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

CONTRAVENTIONS

At the end of the year only 9 minor contraventions still existed namely:

Lack of cleanliness	...	...	2
Inadequate lighting	...	...	1
Lack of I.V.S. to W.C.	...	...	2
Inadequate washing facilities	...	...	3
Unsuitable flooring	...	...	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The small slaughterhouse at the Agricultural Research Council's Field Station at Compton continued in use during the year and all major improvements were completed by the end of the year including the laying of a new floor. Standards of hygiene were maintained at a very high level.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	14	92	50	111	567
Number inspected	14	92	50	111	567
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	7	Nil	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	13	1	1	17

There were no cases of tuberculosis or cysticercosis.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned — 1 ton, 10 cwt. 68 lbs.

Income from meat inspection charges — £39 2s. 3d.

Number of visits made for meat inspection and other purposes — 140.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly kerbside collection of household refuse continued throughout the district during the year and ran fairly smoothly except for some disruption over the Christmas period.

In addition to tipping facilities at Hampstead Norris, Farnborough and Stanford-in-the-Vale, it has been possible to arrange for tipping on one day per week at Abingdon and thus save the long haul to Hampstead Norris from the Harwell-Blewbury area.

In all, some 7,000 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of on these tips and it was noticed again that there was a marked increase in bulk as compared with refuse weight. This necessitated extra runs to tip by vehicles and clearly demonstrated the advantages of larger freighters with more efficient compaction.

Trade contracts to the value of £160 were received during the year and shopkeepers appeared to appreciate the value of the service.

The removal of litter again posed a problem but with a small amount of overtime work by the employees and the occasional service of a contractor, the district was kept fairly clear of unsightly deposits.

Four hundred and sixteen visits concerning the refuse collection service were made by inspectors during the year.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

This Act came into effect during 1968. It imposed an obligation on all Local authorities to provide an 'authorised dump' somewhere within their boundaries where householders might deposit bulky items of refuse free of charge.

Hampstead Norris tip was made available for this purpose but due to its isolated position it was little used. However the bulk collection scheme continued to operate successfully and in all 113 collections of such items as bedsteads, cookers, mattresses, etc., were made.

Another section of the Act dealt with the removal and disposal of abandoned motor vehicles and although the administrative procedures needed careful attention the usefulness of the new legislation was proved conclusively by the end of the year. Forty vehicles were removed in all, 17 by the Council, for a total cost of £28. (£4 was recovered from one owner whose vehicle was temporarily impounded).

The display of posters and distribution of handbills to all garages in the district helped considerably in publicising the provisions of the Act and the assistance given by two local car breaking firms was much appreciated. In all 74 visits were made in connection with this work.

SEPTIC TANK EMPTYING SERVICE

The service provided by the one 800 gallon exhauster vehicle and its driver continued to prove of benefit to the many householders who have no main drainage facilities available to them. The scheme of giving one free emptying every eighteen months remained unaltered although in two cases where serious public health problems existed the Council agreed to alternate free emptyings. On occasions when work slackened off it was possible to use the driver for relief work on the refuse collection service. No alteration in charges was found necessary although productivity was not as high as desired due to the increasing difficulty in finding suitable disposal points.

WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR:

COUNCIL	No. of tanks emptied	No. of loads
Main sewerage tanks	1	4
Small works (serving Council houses only)	3	8
Septic tanks	44	111
PRIVATE TANKS		
Free	312	421
Chargeable — inside the district	322	476
outside the district	39	54
	721	1074

Income from emptying private septic tanks — £832 11s. 9d.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied throughout the district, except for a few private supplies, by the Thames Valley Water Board who have kindly furnished the following:

SOURCES OF SUPPLY:

The sources of water are as in previous years, i.e. boreholes at Blewbury, Brightwalton, Childrey Warren, Compton and West Hendred, while connections with other areas enable water to be brought into the Wantage Rural District if necessary.

BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY:

Samples from these sources were collected as detailed for examination in the Board's laboratory.

Source	Blewbury		Brightwalton		Childrey Warren		Compton		West Hendred	
	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final
No. of samples	34	33	23	24	46	50	14	15	25	26

At Blewbury, Brightwalton and Compton, raw water quality was good, and all final waters were of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

At West Hendred, the raw water showed slight contamination with coliform organisms from time to time, and due to the ammoniacal nitrogen present, the applied chlorine dose required a little time to be effective.

At Childrey Warren, the source was affected by heavy rainfall, and raw water quality deteriorated considerably during July and August. The applied chlorine dose was increased, and after passing through the service reservoirs, water of a satisfactory quality was distributed.

CHEMICAL QUALITY:

Moderately hard water, non-plumbo-solvent and with a natural fluoride content not exceeding .1 p.p.m. in every case except West Hendred which showed .35 p.p.m.

NEW CONNECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR: 99.

SAMPLING BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

No samples of mains water were taken during the year.

Of 13 private supplies sampled 10 were found to be satisfactory. Of the three supplies showing unsatisfactory results, one was merely spring water and as mains water was already available no action was necessary other than to advise against its use for human consumption. The two remaining supplies which served small estates showed fluctuating results and advice on securing more consistent results was given. Results towards the end of the year proved to be much better.

Thirty samples were taken during the year.

SWIMMING POOLS

During June fourteen visits were made to each of the eight schools in the area provided with swimming pools, six of which are of the prefabricated beginners' variety. No bacteriological samples were taken but residual chlorine, pH and turbidity investigations were made. In contrast to 1967, the quality of the pool water was not entirely satisfactory in most cases and faults included:

Lack of free chlorine and in some cases even combined chlorine.
Inefficient or improperly used filtration equipment.

High pH values which lessened the effectiveness of the chlorine.
Four schools using hand chlorine dosing only.

In spite of local assistance being given where possible all the indications were that further advice to headmasters and caretakers was urgently needed and in view of the obvious willingness on the part of the school staffs to co-operate in every possible way steps were taken to arrange a half day conference at the beginning of the

1969 swimming season. It is to be hoped that such a conference will provide the means whereby those persons responsible for the supervision of small pools can solve their problems and come to a fuller appreciation of the technique involved. It is also to be hoped that the Berkshire County Council will see the need to ensure that all schools are provided with automatic chlorinators, up to date chlorine and pH testing equipment and adequate guidance on their proper use.

SEWERAGE

The Engineer and Surveyor reported as follows:

EAST HENDRED, WEST HENDRED, LOCKINGE AND ARDINGTON

A joint scheme of sewerage has been prepared in outline for these villages and has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but has not been finalised. The scheme envisages the construction of a new disposal works at East Hendred.

DENCHWORTH

A scheme of sewerage has been prepared which proposes that the effluent be pumped to the new joint Bradfield Farm works at Grove for treatment. The scheme has been submitted to the Ministry and is still awaiting approval.

EAST AND WEST HANNEY

Trouble due to flooding of sewers during heavy rainfall is being experienced in East and West Hanney and although a scheme to overcome the problem by installing additional pumping plant is being prepared, this cannot be fully implemented until completion of the joint works at Bradfield Farm, Grove.

HERMITAGE

The scheme for sewerage for this village is being undertaken by the Newbury R.D.C. in anticipation of the village being transferred to that Authority.

NORTH FAWLEY

Work commenced on the construction of a new sewage disposal works and the sewerage of the whole village during the year. Completion is expected early in 1969.

Surveys were carried out by the Public Health Department in the villages of West Hendred, Denchworth and Goosey with a view to obtaining information on the number of conservancy closets requiring replacement, the number of septic tanks giving cause for concern and other relevant public health matters which might affect the priority of the schemes being submitted to the Ministry. The need for a sewer in West Hendred is particularly urgent due to the number of septic tanks which overflow at regular intervals and the number of properties which are still served by conservancy closets. Denchworth is hardly less urgent for the same reasons.

DETAILS OF HOUSING, POPULATION, SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES IN PARISH ORDER

Parish	Area in acres	‡Estimated population	Occupied dwellings		Total
			Private	Council	
Aldworth	1866	198	54	16	70
Ardington	2693	367	123	—	123
Beedon	2096	409	107	34	141
Blewbury	4246	1431	†426	63	489
Brightwalton	2054	293	98	15	113
Catmore	710	36	11	—	11
Chaddleworth	3400	434	109	51	160
Challow, East	1657	962	209	90	299
Challow, West	1070	179	39	21	60
Childrey	2929	469	117	41	158
Chilton	1448	810	241	41	282
Compton	3803	1294	319	105	424
Denchworth	1041	187	52	10	62
Farnborough	1886	94	33	4	37
Fawley	2190	148	45	5	50
Goosey	968	146	39	10	49
Grove	2513	3957	†1133	168	1301
Hampstead Norris	4490	729	184	64	248
Hanney, East	2200	710	187	44	231
Hanney, West	1333	501	138	27	165
Harwell	2503	2387	†632	79	711
Hendred, East	3198	1137	352	91	443
Hendred, West	2002	325	89	27	116
Hermitage	1471	866	287	7	294
Ilsley, East	3017	454	105	40	145
Ilsley, West	3037	315	89	17	106
Letcombe Bassett	1631	208	48	15	63
Letcombe Regis	2155	540	147	49	196
Lockinge	3763	236	79	—	79
Peasemore	2049	202	67	12	79
Sparsholt	3329	295	75	29	104
Upton	1413	381	98	24	122
Totals	74161	20700	5732	1199	6931

†These figures include caravans and occupants.

‡Registrar General's figures as at 30 June 1968.

WATER SUPPLIES

Sewerage	Mains water standpipes	Estate supplies Sources	dwellings	Private supplies Sources	dwellings
*	2	—	—	2	4
Yes	—	2	123	—	—
*	3	—	—	1	1
Yes	1	—	—	—	—
*	1	—	—	4	7
—	—	1	10	1	1
Yes (Part)	1	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	2	2
Yes	—	3	20	6	6
*	5	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—
*	—	1	16	—	—
*	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	3	36	3	5
Yes	4	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	4	—	—	5	14
*	3	2	8	—	—
*	2	1	9	—	—
Yes	—	1	8	1	4
Yes	—	1	7	—	—
*	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	3	4
Yes	—	1	79	—	—
*	4	—	—	3	5
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	3	—	—	—	—
	41	16	316	34	60

These figures are compiled from best available information and cannot be regarded as completely accurate.

*Small disposal works in existence for serving Council houses only.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The four existing licences in respect of boarding kennels for cats and dogs at Blewbury, Brightwalton, Harwell and East Hendred were renewed for a further period of 12 months on 1st January 1968. A further licence for a very small establishment at West Ilsley was also issued during the year. Inspections of each were made jointly with the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector for the area and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

		Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties inspected following notification	... ..	203	—
Number infested by (a) Rats	... ..	190	—
(b) mice	... ..	13	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	... ..	1491	46*
Number infested by (a) Rats	... ..	291	34
(b) Mice	... ..	44	7

* Includes 34 farms and business premises under contract. Value of contracts £762.

Rats and mice continued to be treated almost exclusively by No. 5 Warfarin although in a few areas well away from livestock and dwellings 'Cymag' powder was used to gas rats in their burrows with considerable success. The major rodent control problem was found to be the control of Hampstead Norris refuse tip where continued re-infestations occurred due to deposited refuse providing an attraction to rats breeding in nearby woodland.

Pest control at U.K.A.E.A. establishments continued until the end of the year on a contract basis and income from this source totalled £602 17s. 4d.

Forty-three complaints of insect infestation of various kinds were received and dealt with as follows:

Ants	...	...	...	7
Cockroaches	...	...	...	1
Earwigs	...	...	...	1
Fleas	...	...	...	6
Flies	...	...	...	2
Wasps	...	...	...	24
Clover mites	...	...	...	2*

*Both these infestations were sudden and severe and appeared to be due to the mites migrating from their winter quarters in brickwork, etc., on to adjacent grass, gooseberry bushes, etc. Effective control was achieved by the use of Chlordane and Malathion powder.

A test-baiting survey of sewers was carried out in the Spring. Ninety-nine of the estimated 900 manholes throughout the district were baited using Warfarin in an oatmeal base. The results were all negative. The assistance given by the staff of the Engineer's Department in lifting manhole covers was greatly appreciated.

In addition to the work carried out by the Pest Officer and the Rodent Operator 30 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors following complaints of rodent and insect infestation.

CARAVANS

PERMANENT SITES

Charles Simpson (Caravans) Ltd., Westfield Close and the Willows, Grove (90 caravans).

Further caravans were replaced by new mobile homes to the extent that the communal sanitary block on Westfield Close was used less and less. Towards the end of the year the Council agreed in principle to allow the proprietor to demolish this sanitary block and replace it with a launderette, lock-up garages and two small bathrooms for emergency use. At the close of the year a survey was being undertaken to ascertain what objections, if any, there might be from residents before the licence conditions were amended. Licence conditions were amended earlier in the year to prohibit the use of portable oil burning appliances. This action was taken with a view to reducing fire risks and condensation problems.

The Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell (35 caravans).

No major works took place on this site during the year but conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Mr. R. W. Pask, Ladycroft, Blewbury (60 caravans).

Further work on roads took place during the year and a number of older caravans were replaced by more modern mobile homes.

INDIVIDUAL SITES

Mr. H. S. Clargo, Bidhu, Blewbury.

Mrs. B. A. Bosley, Grove Wick Farm, Grove.

Miss H. M. I. Balcombe, Quab Hill Farm, Featherbed Lane,
East Hendred.

TEMPORARY SITES

Only 6 temporary licences continued in force during the year and in 3 of these cases a warning was given that further renewals would not be given after 31st December unless real evidence of continued need could be produced. One of these sites was discontinued during the year.

The contractor's site at Harwell, to which the exemption clauses of the Act applied, closed down during the year but the one at Compton continued in use. As at Harwell drainage connections were made to a septic tank which was emptied regularly by the Council's vehicle. A number of other individual sites were found to be covered by the exemption clauses but no nuisances from these were reported.

GYPSIES

The Council site at Woodhill Lane, East Challow, continued in use during the year and at one time a maximum of six vans were stationed there, all the occupants being related to one another. No further improvements were carried out as it was hoped that all the occupants could be found permanent accommodation in due course. In fact, two of the families were rehoused satisfactorily during the year and they proved to be excellent tenants.

The new Caravans Act of 1968 placed the responsibility for providing sites for gypsies on County Councils and although this section of the Act will not become obligatory until a date to be determined by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, negotiations with the Berkshire County Council were commenced with a view to their taking over the site and bringing it up to the higher standard required as an alternative to closing it down altogether.

One hundred and fifty-three visits were made to caravan sites of all kinds.

HOUSING

1968 proved to be a most important year from the housing point of view, mainly due to the fact that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had to make a very critical re-appraisal of Council house building programmes throughout the country in the light of the nation's economic situation. It was made perfectly clear at a meeting in February that building programmes would

only receive the necessary approval if it could be shown that the majority of units would be used to rehouse elderly people and people living in unfit dwellings.

It was most unfortunate that the Government should have found it necessary to impose these restrictions just at a time when the Council's most ambitious housing project since the war was being prepared for submission to the Ministry. This project included the building of 100 units in Harwell, 23 in East Hanney and 30 in East Challow. Admittedly the project was prepared with a view to securing a rapid reduction in the number of unfit dwellings remaining occupied in the district, as well as meeting the ever increasing general demand for Council accommodation, but it was nevertheless necessary to furnish the Ministry with much more detailed statistical information regarding the extent of the clearance programme than hitherto and this had the effect of delaying progress considerably.

To obtain the necessary information a complete review of the Council's slum clearance programme had to be undertaken in conjunction with a careful study of the register of housing applications to see how the new units could be used to maximum advantage. About this time the Council were also asked by the Ministry to supply a detailed report on the housing stock of the district, laying particular emphasis on houses which were unfit and those which lacked modern amenities. It was fortunate that the two tasks, whilst formidable, were at least complementary to each other.

Much information was obtained from Improvement Grant registers, rating lists and existing office records but nevertheless a considerable amount of survey work had to be undertaken in order to produce the required data, a summary of which is as follows: —

Estimated number of dwellings built before 1919	2280
No. of unfit houses (estimated in 1965)	165
No. of houses which have become unfit or have been discovered to be unfit since 1965	87
No. of houses dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957 since 1965 (formally and informally)	88
No. of unfit houses still to be dealt with ...	164
No. of houses estimated as becoming unfit annually	10-15
Estimated number of improvable dwellings (excluding those listed as unfit but including 39 Council owned properties)	389

(Figures based on the position as at 31st March 1968).

In addition to the above survey work the normal housing duties of the Department continued and some improvement in the position was achieved by the end of the year. Details are as follows: -

Improvement Grants	Approved		Completed	
	Owner/ occupied	Tenanted	Owner/ occupied	Tenanted
Discretionary	5	6	6	2
Standard	10	6	10	5

In 13 of the above cases repair works were carried out concurrently with the improvements and thus it was only necessary to serve 12 informal Housing Act or Public Health Act notices during the year. These were all complied with as were the five formal notices served in 1967 in respect of the cottages at West Challow. In fact, the houses in question were purchased from British Rail and the work carried out by the Council. Modernisation works were also carried out following purchase by the Council at six cottages in Chaddleworth and five cottages in West Ilsley. The four remaining cottages being purchased by the Council in the parish of Beedon still awaited modernisation at the end of the year.

UNFIT HOUSES

Reported as unfit	...	...	...	27
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	3
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	1
Formal undertakings accepted	...	...	...	10
Informal undertakings	...	...	...	4
Demolished	...	...	...	3
Reconditioned (including 2 conversions 2 into 1)	...	...	...	13

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

It was necessary to serve two notices on owners of large houses which have been converted into flats to provide fire escapes, advice first being obtained from the local Fire Prevention Officer.

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

New dwellings were completed as follows:

8 x 2 bedroomed O.P.B's at Letcombe Regis.

4 x 2 bedroomed O.P.B's at West Ilsley.

Forty-eight applicants were rehoused (including 17 from unfit properties) and 21 transfers were effected.

No. of housing applications registered at the end of the year 397.

SUMMARY

Total number of properties inspected during the year	186.
Total number of visits (including housing applicants)	359.

SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

LECTURES ON PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

Two lectures were given at Segsbury Secondary Modern School during the year, each covering housing, sanitation, clean air and water supplies. A talk on the work of the Public Health Inspector was also given to the Blewbury Ladies Group. Talks of this kind are always given gladly as they are an excellent way of promoting good public relations.

PETROLEUM

The administration of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations continued and three new tanks were tested during the year. It was suspected that petrol was leaking from one of the large underground tanks at Rowstock Garage and tests with an explosimeter, kindly loaned together with an operator, by the Berkshire and Reading Fire Brigade, were carried out on all drains in the area. Results were all negative and it was eventually discovered that there had been a miscalculation in the quantity of petrol held in store. Nevertheless the exercise was worth while, as the danger of petroleum spirit seeping into sewers and drains cannot be overstressed.

Eighty-nine premises were licenced at the end of the year and 15 visits were made to various installations.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	44
Total number of inspections	...	...	...	93
No. of nuisances abated (excluding work by the cesspool emptier) (1 formal notice)	...	...	...	15
No. of conservancy closets replaced by waterclosets (including improvement grant work)	...	...	...	13

OTHER NUISANCES

Animals	Inspections	...	...	32
	Nuisances abated	...	...	8
Accumulation of refuse	Inspections	...	...	14
	Nuisances abated	...	...	8
Filthy premises	Inspections	...	...	19
	Nuisances abated	...	...	6
Ditches and streams	Inspections	...	...	23
	Nuisances abated	...	...	5
Smoke and dust	Inspections	...	...	2
	Nuisances abated	...	...	1
Noise	Inspections	...	...	12
	Nuisances abated	...	...	4

Total number of inspections made by Public Health
 Inspectors (two plus a pupil until July 1968, there-
 after 2 + 1 part time) 1895

These figures do not include the work of the Pest Officer, Rodent
 Operator and Cleansing staff which is dealt with under respective
 headings.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	6	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	7	7	—	—
Total	45	14	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Out work — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):
 Making, etc., of wearing apparel: 1.

June 1969.

